

STAGE MANAGEMENT

TRIMESTER 1 - Bachelor & Diploma units

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE STUDIES

→ Theory

This unit is the first of two that introduce students to a synchronic world view of theatre studies. It offers an overview of theatre and drama in many world cultures and periods together with case studies that demonstrate the various methods, historiographical theories and interpretive approaches used by contemporary theatre historians. Students will consider the range of theatre's origins in ritual performance and theatre through religious and civic drama, to early theatre in court, temple, marketplace, oral and writing cultures before 1700, to theatre and performance in print cultures up to 1900.

ACTING FOUNDATIONS

→ Performance

This unit introduces students to the foundations of acting. The unit is delivered in a studio environment, where students will be introduced to the idea of the body being the actor's instrument as they explore fundamental relaxation, movement, and vocal techniques. Students encounter different approaches to acting practice, and have the opportunity to discover what works for them and develop awareness of spontaneity and cooperation. Students are also introduced to scene analysis, culminating in solo and ensemble.

TRIMESTER 2 - Bachelor & Diploma units

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE STUDIES 2

→ Theory

This unit offers an overview of theatre and drama in many world cultures and periods together with case studies that demonstrate the various methods, historiographical theories and interpretive approaches used by contemporary theatre historians. The unit applies a breadth of geographical coverage for exploring the inter-relation of theatre with social and cultural history using historical methodology. Students will examine the more recent range of influences on contemporary theatre.

ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION

→ Performance & Production - double units

This unit brings students together to work on a collaborative performance under the guidance of the class tutor/lecturer. The student cohort will work on a text-based piece of theatre or a devised performance. Students will implement the learning they have achieved to date in an experiential exploration of practice and the practical application of theory. Students will self-allocate to specific roles as actor, writer, director, or stage manager. The unit will also encourage self-reflection and constructively critical analysis of the work produced.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE MAKING

→ Production

This unit introduces students to the basics of theatre making. Divided into three modules, the unit gives students an overview of writing for performance, technical theatre, and directing. In the writing module, students learn fundamental principles of plot, characterisation, structure, and dialogue. In the technical theatre module, students are introduced to the basics of lighting, sound, and stage management. Students learn practical skills of rigging, plotting, and desk operation. In addition, students are introduced to conceptual and aesthetic principles of technical theatre. In the directing module, students are given an overview of the basics of directing, including how to approach the text, conceptualise a production, and work with actors.

CRITICAL THINKING

→ Industry Awareness

This subject introduces students to critical thinking and communications skills and empowers students to apply these skills to their studies. Critical thinking can involve making judgments and evaluations to distinguish fact from opinion, making informed judgments, assessing the validity of a theory, and application of theories to practical situation. Students will strengthen their critical thinking skills through exploring modes of analysis, problem solving, reflection, evaluation, and creation. Students will be presented with artistic works and industry issues, which they will critically evaluate, embracing both analytic and synthetic thinking processes.

CRITICAL SURVEY

→ Industry Awareness

In this unit, students are presented with a broad survey of the creative industries, and are engaged to critically examine industry roles, practices, and structures. Presentations by industry professionals provide a broad overview of the creative industries environment. These presentations cover various roles and facets within the creative industries, and guest speakers will connect with students to share their experiences, as well as to reflect on the industry at large. This comprehensive industry overview is intended to assist students in their professional development and to provide them with the necessary understanding to aid them in obtaining a position as a professional in the creative industries.

TRIMESTER 3 - Bachelor only units

TWENTIETH CENTURY PRACTICE

→ Theory

This unit presents an overview of selected twentieth century directors and their influences on acting methodologies and performance practice. Beginning with an overview of Stanislavski and The Method, this unit will introduce students to the theories and practice of various practitioners who have been influential in shaping contemporary performance. The unit will comprise scholarly examination and practice-based exploration.

STAGE MANAGEMENT 1

→ Stage Management

This unit surveys the roles and responsibilities of the stage management team through the entire production process, from pre-production through to rehearsals, performance and post-performance. Through this process, students will learn how to analyse a script, gain essential knowledge of the performance space and layout as it relates to the stage manager and their responsibilities throughout the performance space, including mark-ups and blocking notes. This unit focuses on teamwork and will provide students with an awareness of the essential duties of working in stage roles. Students will explore a breadth of communication systems and platforms as it applies to various scenarios in the performance space. Students will also gain exposure to different types of cueing, involving visual, verbal, or musical cues. This unit will also evaluate casting, representation, and accessibility matters as they relate to stage management to establish an inclusive workplace culture.

TRIMESTER 4 - Bachelor only units

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE

→ Theory

This unit aims to contextualise for students the history of Australian theatre, the political and cultural issues surrounding it and a considered examination of selected theatrical works. Students will analyse the development of Australian theatre and the movement for a national voice, contextualised by the performance tradition of the First Nations custodians of country. Students will examine current issues regarding culture and women in theatrical representation and contemporary arguments regarding authenticity, adaptation, and appropriation.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

→ Acting Studio - double units

The student cohort will divide to work on a text-based piece of theatre or a devised performance. Students will implement the learning they have done to date in an experiential exploration of practice and the practical application of theory. Students within each degree will self-allocate roles appropriate to their degree and be mentored in their work by the professional practitioners. The unit will also encourage self-reflection and constructively critical analysis of the work produced.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION 1

→ Technical Production

In this unit students develop skills and techniques in lighting, sound, and stagecraft to expand their fluency in the technical functions of live performance. Students will examine the technical requirements of various types of performance spaces and be expected to implement occupational health and safety procedures related to technical equipment and working in and around the performance space. In this unit students can develop creative and technical skills as they gain knowledge of the show control system and backchannel communication. Through this unit students are equipped with the technical knowledge and skills required to operate technical equipment for small-scale productions.

CREATIVE ARTS, SOCIAL IMPACT & THE COMMUNITY

→ Industry Awareness

This unit provides students with the opportunity to investigate the relationship between theatre, community, social inclusion and social cohesion. Through case studies, practical workshops and student-led learning, this unit will consider theories and practices of applied theatre to address the ethics and protocols of performing with and for various diverse and often marginalised community members. This unit will focus on four types of applied theatre that may include Agit-prop and forum theatre, verbatim theatre, children's theatre, prison theatre, LGBTI theatre, theatre by people with disability, culturally diverse theatre, and theatre in education.

CREATIVE ARTS PRACTICES

→ Industry Awareness - elective

Through performance analysis and workshops led by professional practitioners, this unit offers students the opportunity to examine various recent productions with key creative personnel, which could include directors, writers, producers, stage managers, designers, technicians, and/or actors. Throughout the unit, students will observe live or recorded performance, analysis of marketing material, educational material (where applicable), critical responses through reviews and social media, and seminars and workshops led by performance practitioners. Students will analyse the processes whereby these performances were created and participate in practical, experiential learning using various elements that comprised the production.

TRIMESTER 5 - Bachelor only units

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY INFLUENCES

→ Theory

This unit will offer students an overview of some of the social and philosophical movements of the twentieth century and how they have influenced the work of contemporary theatre practitioners. Weaving together cultural and performance theories, the unit highlights the synergies between politics, culture and performance practice. The unit addresses its various topics through a combination of traditional academic analysis and practice-led explorations via material thinking. Students will evaluate key theories and theorists through selected readings, analysis of performance case studies and student-led practical exploration of the application of certain theories to practice.

STAGE MANAGEMENT 2

→ Stage Management

This unit continues from Stage Management 1 to provide students with the opportunity to advance their engagement with stage management role and responsibilities across various production modes and settings, with attention to management approaches and developing an individual leadership style. This unit provides students with communication strategies to orchestrate effective conflict resolution to support active collaboration. In this unit students will be expected to demonstrate a greater degree of autonomy as a stage manager as they explore their own leadership style and approach to management. Students will develop their authority as a stage manager to understand how to advocate for monetary resources, representation, inclusion and accessibility for performers and crew.

TRIMESTER 6 - Bachelor only units

PERFORMANCE INNOVATION

→ Theory

This unit provides students with a broad study of theories of performance, an understanding of the conceptual and material thinking underpinning historical and contemporary forms of avant-garde performance and case studies of various works and practitioners who have been influential in their innovation in performance practice. Students will learn about the frames, possibilities and limitations of performance and will gain an understanding of shifting definitions of live and recorded performance.

CAPSTONE PRODUCTION

→ Acting Studio - double units

The student cohort will divide to work on a text-based piece of theatre written by students in the BPA (Writing and Directing) or a devised performance. Performances will be staged in a professional venue, giving students the opportunity to work with industry standard equipment and resources and learn best practice from the professional environment.

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION 2

→ Technical Production

This unit follows on from Technical Production 1 to examine the technical requirements of different performance spaces, including both conventional and non-conventional modes of performance. Students will be presented with a range of case studies, including site-specific and virtual performance, through which they can examine ways to adapt technical functions across different scenarios. Students will also implement safety procedures to different scenarios and performance environments and consider ways to undertake technical modifications of a space to suit the needs of different types of shows.

GROUP PROJECT

→ Industry Awareness - elective

In this unit, students work across degree programs and areas of specialisation to plan and execute a collaborative project. The unit is designed as preparation for the placement subject to be undertaken in the following stage. Students will work with a mentor who will provide guidance and advice as students propose, plan and execute their project. Weekly sessions will act as production meetings where mentor and students discuss and shape the project plans providing students with an opportunity to bring together knowledge and skills from other units and their respective courses and majors.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT OR PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

→ Industry Awareness

Students will be involved in the day-to-day activities of a chosen workplace where they will have the opportunity to apply some of the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that they have developed during the course. Students will be connected to a range of industry organisations and professionals. They will review their industry placement as they observe, develop, analyse and critically assess skills and knowledge acquired during this placement, and reflect on the implications for future career goals and directions, or complete a portfolio developed throughout the course.